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THANKSGIVING AT GRANDMA'S

Vivian Elliott White

I remember the old bobsled and the hired man who met the train;
How we shivered beneath the robes as the horse pulled through the lane.
Grandma stood in the doorway waving a wooden spoon;
Spicy odors filled the crisp air arousing appetites too soon.

I remember Grandad fixed the table in his best suit.
A long extended table with a centerpiece of fruit;
Which I walked around and around, as folks chatted by the stoves.
There I saw jellies, cranberries, stuffed peppers and peaches with cloves.

I remember how I thought I would surely, surely starve,
Before Grandad finished the blessing and lifted his knife to carve.
He always gave me the drum stick which I felt was a special treat,
Oyster dressing, gravy and potatoes, mashed and sweet.

I remember adding vegetables and folks began to laugh,
Such a plate for a little girl who could never eat but half.
For dessert we had plum pudding, cakes white and dark and pumpkin pies.
Soon we were stuffed like the turkey and I heard only groans and sighs.

I remember after dishes the women traded recipes,
Men smoked and swapped tall tales, and I had cats and pups to tease.

The day passed all too swiftly; soon we left with smiles and tears.
Do you ever long for this day as I do through the years?

"Thanksgiving at Grandma's" is one of a collection of poems self-published by White in the book Memories of Grandmother, circa 1958. The booklet is filled with memories of the sights, scents, and life lessons surrounding her time with her grandmother. It is a sweet reminder of the many aspects of life and love not recorded in genealogical records.

Does the poem conjure up memories of your own? Maybe it is time to write them down.

You can read other poems from Mrs. White's book at Internet Archive:
https://archive.org/details/memoriesofgrandm00whit/mode/2up
(Submitted by Julia Morse.)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

My second great grandparents, John and Hannah (Hiatt) Woodfin, moved from western North Carolina to Johnson County, Missouri in 1837 with three sons. They came with his parents, Thomas and Rachel Woodfin, and some of his brothers and sisters. Most of the brothers and sisters eventually headed on west to Oregon or California. They purchased over 300 acres from the United States government.

After the men went on hunting trips, they discovered land in western Bates County, Missouri. This was south of the Marais des Cygnes River and near Walnut Creek. This property was a few miles from the Kansas border. They bought over 1500

acres of land in Bates County and moved there in 1839 to 1840. In the 1840 census from Bates County, they had a total of 13 slaves. They had 3 more sons and 3 daughters, including Mary Elizabeth. Mary would become my great grandmother. Hannah died in 1852. John married Emily (Bryan) Grantham, a widow with one son. She gave birth to 1 son and 5 daughters. In the late 1850s, the two oldest sons married and built houses on land that had been purchased in their names.

Also in the 1850s, trouble began with Missouri being a slave state and Kansas wanting to become a free state. Conflicts developed on both sides of the state line. Cattle, horses, pigs, and other animals were stolen, murders occurred, and homes were burnt. As the Civil War started, things became worse. John, convinced by his family, went back to Johnson County in 1861. The family was concerned that the Jayhawkers would come and kill him.

John returned to Bates County in the fall of 1862, a bitter, cold fall. He wanted to see his family. The last of his children were twin girls. However, some Jayhawkers showed up one night, calling for John to come out. He escaped through a window in his nightclothes, and ran into the woods. Guns were fired at him, but they missed him. He crawled into a hollow log lying on the ground. It was reported that snow may have been on the ground. The next morning, he went into the house. He had developed a bad cold and was running a fever. A few days later, the Union Army came and took all of the blankets, quilts, sheets, and mattresses in the house for the troops to use. They left John on the wooden slats of the bed. He died on November 19.

Sons Albert and Daniel joined the Missouri State Guard, Confederate troops. Son Jason joined the Missouri State Militia, Union Troops. When Jason's wife died in 1862, he went to Nebraska and became a teamster driver for the Union Army.

Order No. 11 was issued on August 25, 1863. All of Bates County had to evacuate within 15 days. I do not know when the Woodfin family left. I imagine they went to Johnson County before Order No. 11. Emily and the younger children from ages to 2or 3 up to the upper teens had to move pretty much on their own. Mary would have been a young teenager during this time.

Following the war, the family returned to Bates County. They had to pay all of their back real estate taxes on all of their land during the time they were gone or they would have lost the land to the county. They had to rebuild homes and barns. They purchase new cattle and other livestock. Jason returned and remarried. Albert returned, but to the eastern part of Bates County. In the 1885 Bates County Plat Book, Emily and the grown children occupied about 1500 acres of their land. It was divided into 20 or 40 acre plots for most of the children. Emily had about 200 acres in two different tracts. Jason had 320 acres. My great grandmother, Mary Elizabeth (Woodfin) Miller, had 20 acres, even though she lived about 10 miles away with her husband, William Barton Miller.

FOLLOW UP YOUR ANCESTRY OR MyHERITAGE RECORDS SEARCH BY LINKING TO FAMILY SEARCH

Julia Morse

Janine Adams of "Organize Your Family History" (OrganizeYourFamilyHistory.com) is an Ancestry.com user who has noted that sometimes an improved scan document—or even better, more records—can be found on FamilySearch.org. In her November 6 blog post, she provides an example of an Iowa census record which she originally found through Ancestry.com:

"I was examining a document I'd downloaded from Ancestry that was for the 1905 Iowa census. It provided so little information I clicked on 'About this collection' on Ancestry and all it said was, 'This collection includes census records from Iowa in 1905. You can learn more about this collection at the FamilySearch website.' When I clicked on that link I discovered that the 1905 Iowa Census consisted of individual cards for each person and the page I'd downloaded from Ancestry was simply an index to those cards!" The individual card image provided in FamilySearch provided so much more: occupation, years in Iowa, P.O. address, etc.

I have found similar results on FamilySearch by clicking into images of World War I draft cards, Civil War pension documents, and birth record cards, and even some estate will documents. Even if there is no direct link from the Ancestry or MyHeritage source information, it is worth executing the same search on FamilySearch, which may yield additional information.

FamilySearch is free, though you are required to log in. I can attest that if you pay attention to your options when setting up your account, they do not use your information to contact you.

The lesson is that not every family research site has all the information. Take time to read the source information or simply check in multiple places for the richest return.

DAVID WELTY IN THE CIVIL WAR
(Part 2)

Marjorie Slavens

David Welty's father, John Welty (1800-1875), was the son of John Welty, Jr. (1765-1827, son of Johannes (John Welty, Sr. (?-1794), son of Peter Welty (?-1755), the immigrant, who came from Germany to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, now York County, in 1727. John moved to Rush Creek Township Fairfield County, Ohio with his family around 1810. He married Mary Magdalene (Polly) Miller (1801-1844) in Fairfield County in 1823. She was the daughter of Abraham Miller, son of Samuel Miller, son of Michael Miller, the immigrant, who also came to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania from Germany in 1727. The Millers left Pennsylvania, settled first in Virginia, and later Abraham Miller also settled in Fairfield County, Ohio.

The John Weltys had 9 children. Elizabeth (1824-1905), married David Rodehafer; Anna (1827-1874), married Abraham Graffis, Sarah (1831-1853), married John Rowles; and Mary Magdalene (1839-1893), married James A. Thompson.They always lived in Fairfield County.

Solomon (1826-1891) moved to Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, Illinois before the war. Abraham (1829-1873), first moved to Lasalle County, Illinois, returned to Fairfield County when his first wife, Charlotte Schmidt, died. He purchased land in Nodaway County in northwest Missouri but died in Fairfield County. His second wife, Ellen Kern, and their son, Abraham Kern, as well as Abraham's older son, John Henry, moved to Missouri and farmed there. John (1835-1910), moved to Cerro Gordo near Solomon and served in the Union Army from Illinois.
Henry (1837-1911), my great grandfather, went first to LaSalle County, Illinois near his brother Abraham but then went to Jasper County in southwest Missouri around 1867; he died in Leavenworth, Kansas at the Federal Soldiers Home.
David (1833-63) purchased land in Tama County, Iowa in 1856, but he never lived there. He referred to this property in his Civil War letters to his brother, Henry.

My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, received copies of David's Civil War letters from a descendant of David and Henry's sister, Mary Magdalene Welty Thompson. She included them in her book, *Welty Family Letters,* which also includes letters from Henry's Ohio family to him in Missouri in the 1880s.

"David was a teacher and farmer. He bought land in Howard Township, Tama County, Iowa July 28, 1856 in section 32, township 84, range 15.

He enlisted in Company D, 2nd Regiment of Ohio Volunteers in September, 1861. He was mustered in at Camp Goddard, Ohio. He was elected a corporal on June 6, 1863. He was in five battles, Winchester, Cedar Creek, Morris Island, Harrison's Landing, and Fort Wagner. His unit was consolidated with Company K at City Point, Virginia. He was wounded at Fort Wagner and taken on a hospital ship to New York, where he died July 29, 1863. He was buried in Cypress Hills National Cemetery, 625 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

David Welty's land in Tama County, Iowa was sold by his father, John Welty, and wife, Elizabeth, on January 30, 1869 to John Hendricks and wife, Nancy Hufford Hendricks, a daughter of

John's sister, Nancy Welty Hufford. John Hendricks, widower, sold it on October 7, 1879 to J. H. Giger.

The family of Mary Magdalene Welty Thompson conserved the following letters from David to my grandfather, Henry Welty, while David was in military service. My grandfather was handling David's financial affairs while he was away. On July 17, 1862, David wrote the following letter to his brother, Henry.

"Army of the Potomac
Harrison's Landing, James River
Thursday, July 17, 1862

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 10th came to hand today. I was much pleased to hear from you again. I am glad to hear that the wheat crop is so good in Ohio, and that you are so near harvesting yours. In regard to the money, I will say that the $30.00, which I gave to him about a year ago, I paid about the 1st of April, 1861. This, however, will only make a small difference in the interest as I expected it was not credited on the note. You state that the principal on the note is $85.00. I had forgotten what it was. You need not send the note to me when you have settled it, but tear off my name and keep the note. I don't suppose Father said anything about the corn he got from me last fall, but undoubtedly he has kept account of the amount which he did. We expect to be paid off again in a short time if we remain here long. Henry, it is not worth while for me to tell you what we are doing here., for you can learn much more through the papers than I can tell you.

I am sorry to say that there is a good deal of sickness in the army here, or at least there is if the Secondis is a criterion to go by. I suppose there are between 200 and 300 unfit for duty here, besides those who are away in hospitals. I had to report the sick list this morning. The principal diseases are diarrhea, the intermittent congestion of liver, and some fever. We have been encamped on this ground eleven days, which is longer than we have been any time since.

I have written two letters to Bet, which are yet unanswered. The first one I wrote when we were at Fredericksburg. I think, however, that she never got that letter, from what Sis told me in a letter which I received from her last week. The other letter I hope she has got ere this. I wonder how old Fairfield will succeed in raising her 300 new volunteers. Henry, I don't want you to volunteer by any means. I think that two from our family should be sufficient, and you are needed at home. I am sorry to hear of John Young's death. When you write to me, direct to O. P. I. Ferry's Brigade, Peck's Division, Army of the Potomac, Washington City, D. C. Hope you are all well. My love to all.

Your brother, David"

My grandfather did not enlist immediately, but he served in the army in the summer of 1864 after David's death. David wrote a second letter while he was in the hospital and about ready to return to his unit.

Fort Hamilton, New York Harbor
Wednesday, November 5, 1862

Dear Brother,

As I have not written home for nearly three weeks, I shall now write a few lines. I was brought from the Island Hospital to this place on last Thursday. I do not know how long I shall be kept here, but I hope it will not be a great while, as I don't like the place at all. I think I will get away before very long, perhaps this week yet. I expect to go from here to my regiment. I have got pretty well again. I have not heard anything from the regiment for more than a month, but I suppose they are still at Suffolk, Virginia.

I would like to hear from home, but it would not be worth while for you to write now, as I would not be likely to get your letter if you were to write. Fort Hamilton is about eight miles below New York, City on the east bank of the East River. Fort Lafayette is out on the river some 20 rods from the shore, and Fort Richmond is on the opposite side of the river. There are also other fortifications inside.

There are only about 200 troops here now. Excuse me for not writing more, as I do not feel much like writing. If you see Sis, tell her that she shall have the next letter than I write. Love to all.

Your brother, David"

Following is the last letter David wrote. He was in South Carolina, where he would soon be wounded at Fort Wagner. There is no indication of the approaching conflict.

"Folly Island, South Carolina

Monday, May 11, 1863

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 26th of March came to hand yesterday. You informed me that you had not written to Iowa yet in regard to my tax and that you cannot find the deed for my land. I can't think where the deed might be. I certainly left it in my trunk. Perhaps you overlooked it.

You say Father advises you to write to John Ross concerning our taxes. Well, you can do as you see proper, but I have written to him two or three times but never got an answer, so I think it little worth while to write to him. If you can't find my deed, I think the better plan might be to write either to the treasurer or recorder of Tama County, and either of them can give you the number of my land, as well as the amount of taxes due on it. The deed is recorded in my name. If you write to either of them, enclose a few stamps to prepay the postage by return mail.

If you send any money to Iowa, you had better buy a draft and send it as it will not be so liable to get lost. Perhaps you remember, I lost $15.00 a few years ago. Well, I believe I have nothing more to write on the subject now. Do as you think best in the matter. I wrote you a letter about ten days ago informing you that I have sent you some money again. I sent $45.00 by express to E. Kolb for you. I have no news to write you now. All is quiet here and no prospect for fighting. We have had encouraging news yesterday and today from different parts of the army. You hear that the Army of the Potomac is moving and driving the rebels toward Richmond. It is also reported that Vicksburg was taken by our forces and that a large number of prisoners has been taken, but I have little faith in the Vicksburg story. I saw a letter yesterday written by a soldier in the 17th Ohio Regiment. He was exalting over the news of the downfall of Charleston, but Charleston yet stands unharmed. I fear it is so with Vicksburg. Well, as I have nothing more of importance to write, I shall close. My health is good, as well as that of most of the troops that are here. I hope this may find you all well.

Affectionately, your brother, David"

David was wounded shortly thereafter and was taken by hospital ship to New York, where he died. His brother, Henry, went to Missouri by way of Illinois after the end of the war. (Quoted from Mildred Welty Slavens, ***Welty Family Letters,*** Raymore, Missouri, August, 1999, published privately.)

THE YEAR WAS 1863

You can read Juliana Szucs' summary of 1863 events at her Ancestry Blogs article:
https://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=778

HOW TO FIND FREE HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS ONLINE OR IN LIBRARIES NEAR YOU

Julia Morse

We previously discussed the free access to historical newspapers provided by the Library of Congress' Chronicling America project. They continue to add newspapers to their collection, so this is a good time to check their site again:
https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Searching Chronicling America can sometimes be overwhelming. You can easily sort by state, but the site does not allow you to geographically refine further, except that you have the opportunity to search on a particular newspaper. You can scroll through the list of newspapers hoping to find cities of interest, but the list of papers is HUGE!

Here's a trick to get you going faster: Identify newspaper names for your county or town of interest by using the purple button that says "U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present." This directory will tell you not only newspapers in Chronicling America, but other newspapers that you might be able to find on microfilm at a research library or historical society library near you. To limit the results to just newspapers that are online, click the selection for "Material Type" and select from the list "Online Resource." You can also select a date range of interest.

Hopefully, you will get the names of some newspapers in your county of interest.
For example, I searched for newspapers in Bates County, Missouri, and found that, if I hope for news items before 1900, I have to look for The Butler Weekly Times, but I can find items after 1900 in the Rich Hill area by searching either The Rich Hill Tribune or just The Tribune.

While you are looking at the results listing possible newspapers, you can browse these papers directly by clicking on the paper name, and then find the "Related Link" near the bottom of the newspaper information page. This takes you to a selection of bold dates on a calendar that can be selected to view newspaper pages from that date. This can be useful, for example, if I know the date my relative died in Bates County, Missouri, and I am missing an obituary. It has sometimes happened for me that the obituary is there, but does not come up on a search due to readability or unexpected form of name.

Of course, it is much easier if we can do a search on a term. So now that we know what newspaper titles to look for in the long list, we can go back to the "Advanced Search" and scroll to find the "Rich Hill Tribune" as the paper we want to search. Then enter your search terms.

If there is no online access newspapers for your geographic region of interest, try doing the same search again with the "Media Type" selection left blank. If you then click on a paper from these results and then click on "holdings," you can observe what libraries you may be able to visit to browse the microfilm.

Another hindrance to Chronicling America is that it is sometimes difficult to figure out how to navigate the reader or how to save the newspaper article of interest. I have found an excellent instructional video by Kenneth Marks of YouTube Channel "The Ancestor Hunt": https://youtube/sL2lQ42JX7s.

Lastly, there are free newspapers online that are not in the Chronicling America collection. The site Elephind.com will help you find free papers held by other newspaper database sites. This video from YouTube Channel "Family Tree Explorer" presents the basic use of Elephind: https://youtu.be/DWKovQyhw2o.

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